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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

25X1A

COUNTRY China

DATE: 25X1X

INFO. [redacted]

SUBJECT Military Information: Nationalist Conscription Activities, Kwangtung

DIST 10 March 1947

25X1A

PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN [redacted]
25X1X

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[redacted]

1. Orders for the resumption of conscription have recently been received by the Canton Municipal Government. The Canton City Conscription Headquarters and several branches have been established in the city and plans are being drawn up to begin conscription on 1 October 1946.

2. The present work of the Headquarters is to make a census of all men within the age limit of twenty through twenty-three years (that is, men born during the 12th, 13th, and 14th years of the Chinese Republic). Conscriptees are to be trained and used for the following purposes:

a. In case of war, for wartime military purposes.

b. During peace, for maintaining law and order within the areas where they are stationed.

25X1A [redacted] comment: Since there are no records of births maintained within the Canton area, it will be an extremely difficult task for the conscription authorities to determine those who were born during the 12th, 13th, and 14th years of the Republic of China. There is actually only one record kept of all baby boys born in the villages, and that is the recording of their names on the tablet in the Ancestral Hall during the year of their birth. However, during the early part of 1946 the Canton Municipal Police attempted to carry out a local census. Every family was sent or given a form on which was to be indicated the name of the head of the family, the address, and the names of all members of the family, with their ages and occupations. If the local police are willing to cooperate with the conscription authorities, it would be possible for a list of eligible conscriptees to be compiled from these census forms on the basis of the ages indicated. On the other hand, the police could cooperate with the conscription authorities to their own advantage in that for monetary consideration on the part of an eligible conscriptee they could delete his name from their records. The Canton Municipal Police never hesitate to take advantage of an opportunity for exacting "squeeze". An American observer feels that the system of attempting to conscript youths between very narrow age limits is sure to break down completely and the conscription authorities will be forced to revert to the wartime system of making every shop responsible for furnishing one young conscriptee to form a Merchants' Regiment.)

3. Conscription was carried out during the war by establishing in every province a Military Control Zone of which the provincial governor was the commander.

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Extracted by F.L.R.

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